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# Van Chancellor

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## HEAD COACH, 2002 USA Basketball Women's World Championship Team



Chancellor

[2002 USA World Championship Team](#)

Four-time WNBA championship head coach Van Chancellor of the Houston Comets, who in 2002 piloted the United States to a gold medal and an unblemished 9-0 record at the 2002 FIBA World Championship, was announced on June 10, 2003, by USA Basketball as the 2004 U.S. Women's Olympic Basketball Team head coach. The selection of Chancellor, who will lead the U.S. in its defense of its 2000 Olympic title at the 2004 Olympic Games, was made by the USA Basketball Women's Senior National Team Committee and approved by the USA Basketball Executive Committee and U.S. Olympic Committee.

"Anytime you're selected to represent your country, especially in the Olympics, is the biggest honor a coach can have," said Chancellor. "I am so honored and am really looking forward to working again with some of the most talented players we have in this country. I'd just like to thank the (USA Basketball) Executive Committee for this honor.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the World Championship experience I had will be invaluable next summer," continued Chancellor. "As a coach, I know more about what our players can do as a team, I know what they're capable of, and I also know what the opponents are capable of. I think that the Worlds gives you invaluable experience leading into the Olympics."

With his Olympic coaching selection, Chancellor joins an elite eight-member circle of U.S. Women's Olympic Team all-time coaches, which include 1976 silver medalist Billie Jean Moore (then with Cal State Fullerton), 1980 Olympic head coach Sue Gunter (then with Stephen F. Austin, Texas), 1984 gold medalist Pat Head Summitt (Tennessee), 1988 gold medalist Kay Yow (North Carolina State), 1992 bronze medalist Theresa Greutz (then with Rutgers), 1996 gold medalist Tara VanDerveer (USA Basketball/Stanford) and 2000 gold medalist Nell Fortner (then with USA Basketball).

Chancellor, who was named the 2002 USA Basketball National Coach of the Year for his efforts, guided the U.S. to the gold medal at the 2002 FIBA World Championship in China. Rolling through preliminary first and second round play with a 6-0 record and earning a trip to the medal round, the USA squad surpassed Spain 94-55 in the quarterfinals before dismantling Australia 71-56 in the medal semifinals. Facing Russia for a second time at the World Championship, the United States survived a late rally to take a 79-74 victory and the gold medal.

Prior to the tip-off of the World Championship, Chancellor had one practice with the entire 12-member team to get the squad prepared for the Australia-hosted Opals World Challenge. Facing three of the then top five teams in the world, Australia, Brazil and France, the United States took top honors with a 4-0 record.

Chancellor also spent a month in the spring of 2002 assessing U.S. team members and hopefuls in a four-city training camp which helped determine the



final USA squad. As part of the March 19 - April 9 training camp held in Houston and San Antonio, Texas; followed by a stint in New York and finally Colorado Springs, Colo., home to USA Basketball; the USA National Team defeated the WBCA College All-Star Team 100-59 during the women's NCAA Final Four in San Antonio.

He was announced on Nov. 8, 2001, by USA Basketball as head coach for the 2002 USA Basketball Women's World Championship Team.

After spending 19 successful seasons (1978-79 to 1996-97) at the helm of the University of Mississippi, Chancellor entered the professional coaching ranks in 1997 and immediately made an impact in the WNBA's inaugural season. After guiding his 1997 Houston Comets squad to the first WNBA title, Chancellor strung together three more WNBA championships with Houston, creating what many have tabbed as the league's first dynasty.

In six years Chancellor has guided the Comets to an overall regular season record of 141-45 (.758 winning percentage) and a 17-7 win-loss record in the playoffs (.708 winning percentage). Chancellor has collected a trio of WNBA Coach of the Year honors (1997, 1998, 1999) and served as the head coach for the WNBA All-Star Game West Team three times (1999, 2000, 2001). Furthermore, Chancellor was head coach for the 1998 WNBA Touring Team that toured Brazil following the WNBA's second season.

After spearheading his squads to four consecutive WNBA crowns, Chancellor prior to the 2001 season lost his top two players, a pair of Olympic gold medalists who provided almost half the Comets' scoring in 2000. Four-time WNBA championship MVP and two-time league MVP Cynthia Cooper retired following the 2000 season and Sheryl Swoopes, the 2000 WNBA MVP and Defensive Player of the Year, suffered a season-ending knee injury prior to the start of the 2001 Houston Comets' pre-season training camp. Despite these losses, Chancellor led the 2001 Comets to a 19-13 record and a spot in the 2001 WNBA Playoffs. In 2002 the Comets posted a 28-4 record and earned their sixth consecutive playoff berth.

During his tenure with the Comets Chancellor has coached many talented elite athletes, including two-time U.S. Olympians Cooper (1988, 1992) and Swoopes (1996, 2000), 1992 U.S. Olympian Tammy Jackson, as well as Olympians Janeth Arcain (1992, 1996, 2000) of Brazil, Elena Shakirova (1992, 1996, 2000) of Russia and Catarina Pollini (1992, 1996) of Italy.

Also a proven collegiate success, Chancellor spent 19 seasons as the head coach at Ole Miss where he posted a 439-154 overall record (.740 winning percentage) and advanced his teams to 14 NCAA Tournaments. Chancellor's 14 NCAA appearances were highlighted by four Elite Eight (1985, 1986, 1989, 1992) and three Sweet Sixteen (1987, 1988, 1990) finishes.

Inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame on June 9, 2001, Chancellor was named the 1992 National Coach of the Year by the Women's Basketball News Service and was also honored as the Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year three times (1987, 1990, 1992). The winningest coach in Ole Miss women's basketball history, Chancellor coached a pair of sisters who went on to represent USA Basketball in international competition, including 1988 U.S. Olympic and 2002 World Championship gold medalist Jennifer Gillom and 1998 USA World Championship assistant coach Peggie Gillom.

NOTE: All records are through the 2002 WNBA season and do not include the 2003 WNBA season.



## Van Chancellor Coaching Synopsis

### USA Basketball Coaching Record

Event	Position	W-L	Finish
2002 FIBA World Championship	Head Coach	9-0	Gold Medal
2002 Opals World Challenge	Head Coach	4-0	First Place
2002 WBCA All-Star Challenge	Head Coach	1-0	n/a
<b>Totals</b>		14-0 (1.000)	

### Professional Coaching Record

Year	Team	Position	Regular Season Record	Pct.	Playoff Record	Notes
2002	Houston Comets	Head Coach	24-8	.750	1-2	WNBA Playoffs
2001	Houston Comets	Head Coach	19-13	.594	0-2	WNBA Playoffs
2000	Houston Comets	Head Coach	27- 5	.844	6-0	WNBA Champions
1999	Houston Comets	Head Coach	26- 6	.813	4-2	WNBA Champions
1998	Houston Comets	Head Coach	27- 3	.900	4-1	WNBA Champions
1997	Houston Comets	Head Coach	18-10	.643	2-0	WNBA Champions
<b>Totals</b>			<b>141-45</b>	<b>.758</b>	<b>17-7</b>	<b>Four WNBA titles</b>

### Collegiate Coaching Record

Year	School	Position	Overall Record	Pct.	Notes
1996-97	Mississippi	Head Coach	16-11	.593	
1995-96	Mississippi	Head Coach	18-11	.621	NCAA First Round
1994-95	Mississippi	Head Coach	21-8	.724	NCAA First Round
1993-94	Mississippi	Head Coach	24-9	.727	NCAA Second Round
1992-93	Mississippi	Head Coach	19-10	.655	
1991-92	Mississippi	Head Coach	29-3	.906	NCAA Elite Eight
1990-91	Mississippi	Head Coach	20-9	.690	NCAA First Round
1989-90	Mississippi	Head Coach	22-10	.688	NCAA Sweet Sixteen
1988-89	Mississippi	Head Coach	23-8	.742	NCAA Elite Eight
1987-88	Mississippi	Head Coach	24-7	.774	NCAA Sweet Sixteen
1986-87	Mississippi	Head Coach	25-5	.833	NCAA Sweet Sixteen
1985-86	Mississippi	Head Coach	24-8	.750	NCAA Elite Eight
1984-85	Mississippi	Head Coach	29-3	.906	NCAA Elite Eight
1983-84	Mississippi	Head Coach	24-6	.800	NCAA Second Round
1982-83	Mississippi	Head Coach	26-6	.813	NCAA Second Round
1981-82	Mississippi	Head Coach	27-5	.844	NCAA First Round
1980-81	Mississippi	Head Coach	14-12	.538	AIAW State Tournament
1979-80	Mississippi	Head Coach	23-14	.622	AIAW State Tournament

1978-79	Mississippi	Head Coach	31-9	.775	AIAW State Tournament Champions, Third Place Region III
19 Years			439-154	.740	14 NCAA Tournaments, 3 AIAW State Tournaments

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